

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for promoting weight control in a companion animal comprising orally administering one or more non-glyceryl fatty acid derivatives of C₁₇ or greater fatty acids.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the companion animal is selected from the group consisting of dogs, cats, and combinations thereof.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the derivatives are administered as a supplement separate from the companion animal's food.
4. The method of Claim 2 wherein the derivatives are administered with the companion animal's food.
5. The method of Claim 2 wherein the derivatives are incorporated into the companion animal's food.
6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the food comprises, on a dry matter basis by weight, at least about 0.5% non-glyceryl fatty acid derivatives, about 15% to about 55% protein, and about 9% to about 35% dietary fat.
7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the food comprises, on a dry matter basis by weight, at least about 1% non-glyceryl fatty acid derivatives.
8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the food comprises, on a dry matter basis by weight, about 1% to about 13% non-glyceryl fatty acid derivatives.
9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the fatty acids in the fatty acid derivatives contain from 17 to 24 carbons and from 0 to 5 carbon-carbon double bonds.
10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the fatty acids in the fatty acid derivatives are selected from the group consisting of heptadecanoic acid, stearic acid, arachidic acid, behenic acid, lignoceric acid, cerotic acid, oleic acid, cis-11-octadecenoic acid, linoleic acid, alpha-linoleic acid, gamma-linolenic

acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docasahexaenoic acid, arachidonic acid, erucic acid, and mixtures thereof.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the fatty acids in the fatty acid derivatives are selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, oleic acid, and mixtures thereof.

12. The method of Claim 10 wherein the derivatives are free fatty acids.

13. The method of Claim 10 wherein the fatty acid derivatives are C₁-C₆ alkyl fatty acid esters.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the fatty acid derivatives are selected from the group consisting of ethyl oleate, ethyl linoleate, and mixtures thereof.

15. The method of Claim 10 wherein at least about 100 mg of non-glycerol fatty acid derivatives is administered per kg body weight per day.

16. The method of Claim 10 wherein the fatty acid derivatives do not cause the companion animal to reduce food consumption.

17. A dietary composition for promoting weight control in a companion animal, the composition comprising, on a dry matter basis by weight, at least about 0.5% of one or more non-glycerol derivatives of C₁₇ or greater saturated or monounsaturated fatty acids, about 15% to about 55% protein, and about 9% to about 35% dietary fat.

18. The composition of Claim 17 comprising, on a dry matter basis by weight, about 1% to about 13% non-glycerol fatty acid derivatives.

19. The composition of Claim 18 wherein the fatty acid derivatives are free fatty acids.

20. The composition of Claim 18 wherein the fatty acid derivatives are C₁-C₆ alkyl fatty acid esters.

21. The composition of Claim 20 wherein the non-glycerol fatty acid ester is selected from the

group consisting of ethyl oleate, ethyl linoleate, and mixtures thereof.

22. The composition of Claim 18 further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of corn meal, sorghum, barley, fish meal, dried beet pulp, dried egg product, brewer's yeast, chicken, beef, lamb, and mixtures thereof.

23. The composition of Claim 18 further comprising a source of protein selected from the group consisting of chicken, turkey, beef, fish, lamb, and mixtures thereof.

24. The composition of Claim 23 which is a dry kibble.

25. A method for promoting weight control in a companion animal comprising orally administering lotus leaf extract.

26. The method of Claim 32 wherein the companion animal is selected from the group consisting of dogs, cats, and combinations thereof.

27. The method of Claim 26 wherein the administering lotus leaf extract promotes a decrease or maintenance of fat and an increase or maintenance of lean body mass in the companion animal.

28. The method of Claim 26 wherein the lotus leaf extract does not cause the companion animal to reduce food consumption.

29. The method of Claim 29 wherein wherein the lotus leaf extract is incorporated into the companion animal's food and wherein the food comprises, on a dry matter basis by weight, at least about 0.05% lotus leaf extract.

30. The method of any one of Claim 29 wherein the food comprises, on a dry matter basis by weight, from about 15% to about 55% protein and from about 9% to about 35% dietary fat.

32. A dietary composition for promoting weight control in a companion animal, the composition comprising, on a dry matter basis by weight, at least about 0.05% lotus leaf extract.

33. The composition of Claim 32 further comprising, on a dry matter basis by weight, from about 15% to about 55% protein and from about 9% to about 35% dietary fat.
34. The composition of Claim 33 further comprising a source of protein selected from the group consisting of chicken, turkey, beef, fish, lamb, and mixtures thereof.
35. The composition of Claim 34 which is a dry kibble.
36. The composition of Claim 35 comprising, on a dry matter basis by weight, about 0.1% to about 2% lotus leaf extract.
37. A method for promoting weight control in a human comprising orally administering lotus leaf extract, wherein the lotus leaf extract does not cause the human to reduce food consumption.
38. The method of Claim 37 wherein the administering lotus leaf extract promotes a decrease or maintenance of fat and an increase or maintenance of lean body mass in the human.